Falling of meteors in Gujarat

f3005. SHRI ABU ASIMAZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past **a** meteor fell somewhere in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of falling of meteors during the last five years and the extent of losses suffered or benefit achieved from their falling;

(c) the nature of such meteors and the reasons of their falling; and

(d) whether any measures are being taken to have prior information of the falling of such meteors; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A meteor fell in the Kutch area of Gujarat on 31 st July, 2006 evening. The meteor broke into many pieces in the atmosphere and these pieces fell over different places in the area.

(b) In Gujarat, only two such meteor-falls have been reported during the last five years. Most of the falling meteors are small and do not cause any loss of life or property. The benefits of such meteorities are scientific in nature as they might provide some clue to the early evaluation of the solare system.

(c) Meteors are dust and rocky fragments of asteroids or comets, which interact with the earth's atmosphere as it sweeps through the space. Smaller fragments bum up in the atmosphere. Occassionally, larger rocky pieces survive atmosphere and fall on the earth.

(d) Several teams of astronomers worldwide are surveying the sky using special optical telescopes to detect and monitor the near earth objects. The relevant information is regularly made public for all intersted scientists and monitoring agencies.

Monitoring Mechanism for MPLAOS

3006. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose/plan to change the Monitoring Mechanism for MPLADS works;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.